

Iowa Community Empowerment Funding

SCHOOL READY GRANTS

The Iowa State Legislature appropriates General Funds (and Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust (HITT) funds in 02, 03, 04, 05, 06 and 07) for community grants to support comprehensive services for children ages 0 through 5 including:

- Preschool and child care
 - Parent support and education
 - Family home visitation
 - Professional development
- ✓ School Ready Grants are distributed via two methods; 27 areas are based on grant application and 31 areas are based on formula funding. This process is transitioning to be all formula-based distribution.
 - ✓ A portion of the School Ready Grant is designated or authorized for specific purposes through legislation. Community Empowerment Areas are to use 60% of the remaining funds to focus on home visitation and parent support programs.
 - ✓ For FY '07 \$5 million is to be used for family support services or parent education programs that have a home visitation component and target families expecting a child or with newborn or infant children up to age 3 years.
 - ✓ For FY '07 \$10.15 million is to be used for preschool tuition assistance for low-income families.
 - ✓ For FY '07 \$3.4 million is to be used to improve the quality of early care, health & education programs.
 - ✓ Administrative expenditures are limited to 3% of the School Ready Grant award.
 - ✓ Funds are state dollars.
 - ✓ \$2,153,250 from Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust in FY '04, '05, '06 and '07; and \$1,153,250 in FY 02 and FY 03.
 - ✓

The funding history for School Ready Grants:

FY 1999	\$5,200,000
FY 2000	\$10,400,000
FY 2001	\$15,600,000
FY 2002	\$15,817,247
FY 2003	\$14,877,962
FY 2004	\$15,677,962 - 2.5% Across the Board Reduction of General Funds + a .25% Restoration = \$15,373,656.50
FY 2005	\$15,334,844
FY 2006	\$25,634,842
FY 2007	\$38,434,844

FY '07 funds kept at the state level:

- ✓ \$2.2 million is to be used for professional development and training for the early care, health, and education system and will be distributed at the state level.
- ✓ \$1 million is to be utilized by the Iowa Empowerment Board to implement the recommendations of the Business Community Advisory Council.
- ✓ \$100,000 is to be used to implement the Ready to Learn program.
- ✓ \$400,000 is to be allocated to the Office of Empowerment.

Highlights of Community Empowerment's '08 Offer for expansion:

- The State Technical Assistance Team is made up of staff at the office of empowerment, as well as a compilation of a donated .5 FTE from each of the departments that serve on the Iowa Empowerment Board. (the .5 FTE is currently a contribution from each department – legislated to be a part of the Iowa Empowerment Board: Economic Development, Education, Human Rights, Human Services, Public Health, and Workforce Development. This team meets on an ongoing basis to support the empowerment structure. The role of the state technical assistance team has continued to grow as funding and responsibility of community empowerment has expanded. We are asking for funding to support each department as we collaboratively support each community across the state. **(\$300,000)** (See description of activities supported by the Technical Assistance Team in '06 Annual Report, pages 14-17)
- Last year, legislation provided a way to build a stronger relationship between Community Empowerment and IPTV's Ready to Learn Program. (\$100,000). We have found this relationship to be very positive. Empowerment is supporting a growth of the Ready to Learn Program by **\$125,000** (making it \$225,000 in total) to help its efforts reach statewide capacity. RTL is currently in 58 counties. (See highlights of current RTL activities in '06 Annual Report, page 43-45)
- As added responsibilities have become a part of community empowerment, the state technical assistance team in partnership with a small group of local empowerment coordinators has begun to develop a training series for coordinators. The series would be comprehensive. Our request to support the implementation of the series would be for **\$50,000**.



**Community Empowerment
School Ready Funds
Carry-Forward Policy**

**Legislative
Language**

HF 761: New legislative language

The Iowa empowerment board shall identify and apply limitations on the carryforward of school ready children grant funding. The limitations shall address an unusually high percentage of a grant being carried forward, the number of years a grant has been carried forward which shall not exceed three years, and other objective criteria.

The limitations shall make allowances for special circumstances such as the carryforward of funding that is designated for a particular purpose and is scheduled in the grant plan.

The board may provide for redistribution or other redirection of the funding that meets the criteria.

**Recommendations
for Carry-
Forward
Guidance**

Recommendation to define an unusually high percentage as 30% of the annual school ready allocation, based on an accrual reporting system.

For fiscal years ending after July 1, 2006, empowerment areas reporting a carryover balance of school ready funds in excess of 30% of the previous year's allocation will receive a reduction equal to the excess amount above the 30% in their next year's school ready allocation, based on accrual reporting.

**Recommendation
to define
allowances for
special
circumstances**

All local community empowerment areas would receive an automatic waiver for fiscal year during '06 because of the significant increased allocation and stipulations to the School Ready fund for fiscal year '06.

Beginning in fiscal year '07 local CEAs would need to file an appeal to the Iowa Empowerment Board to carryforward more than 30% of their annual school ready allocation. The appeal would provide an opportunity for a local CEA to explain their special circumstances, what particular use they are designating the Carryforward funds toward, discuss how this action is in alignment with their community plan, and describe how this plan benefits Iowa's children and families.

Example:

XYZ Community empowerment board has a Carryforward of 35% in their school ready fund as noted in their 2007 Annual Report (due to the Office of Empowerment on September 15, 2007.)

First Step: The annual report is reviewed by a state team member and the Carryforward noted. The Carryforward amount is verified with the XYZ

empowerment board. (timetable: September 15 – December 31)

Second Step: The XYZ empowerment board may appeal to the Iowa empowerment board. (timetable: January or March IEB meeting)

Third Step: Iowa Empowerment board overturns their decision granting the appeal allowing the additional Carryforward OR they uphold their decision denying the appeal.

Fourth Step: If the appeal is denied the XYZ empowerment area's school ready allocation will be reduced by 5% in the 2009 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2008. Recommendation to the extent the law allows for the Iowa Empowerment Board to redistribute or redirect Carryforward funds to:

Redistribution of Funds

Any excess carry forward funds will be distributed to all local boards, through the formula, for locally identified activities that are within the guidelines for use of school ready funds.

Technical Assistance

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Community Empowerment Professional Development Funding

Proposal Title	Target Audience	Summary	Contractor	Plan for State Outreach
New Staff Orientation	Child care center directors and staff	Initial training for Child Care Center Directors to utilize a 16-hr video orientation for new center staff. The video orientation includes workbook assignments by staff and reviewed by director. Completed workbooks are submitted for review and center receives recognition in the QRS system for this item of completion.	Iowa State University	Child Care Centers, focusing on those participating in NAC initially
Quality Preschool Program Standards Training	QPPS facilitators	expand facilitators by 20 across the state and add 40 new programs/centers as participants	Dept. of Education	AEA Regions
Every Child Reads	early care and education providers	expansion of ongoing training series for this project across the state	Dept. of Education	AEA Regions
Early ACCESS service coordinator training	service coordinators & providers	Service Coordination Training Program, which implements competency based training for Service Coordinators statewide and expands the interagency (Health, Education, and Child Health Specialty Clinics) pool of Approved Trainers. An ABC Matrix training, which builds skills in collecting family information regarding strengths, needs, etc. Both types of training are being implemented to expand training in order to provide consistency in the delivery of services to children birth to age 3 with disabilities and delays and their families.	Dept. of Education	training in four quadrants across the state
Oral Health Mentoring and Training Collaborative for Primary Health Care Providers in Iowa	Primary Health Care Pediatric and Family Physicians; Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; Physician Assistants, Family Nurse Practitioners; and U of Iowa Hospital and Iowa Methodist Blank Children's Hospital Pediatric Residency Training Programs.	The Oral Health Bureau will work with the University of Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinics, Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Iowa Chapter of Family Practice Physicians to provide training statewide to primary care health providers on early childhood oral health screenings and fluoride varnish application. The primary focus will be to expand optimum access to preventive dental care for children ages 3 and under that traditionally do not have routine access to a dental office. The concept for the training will involve dissemination of education through a "training-the-trainer" and mentoring model. Telehealth applications and linkages with web-based applications will allow easy reference for practicing providers to update skills and information.	Dept. of Public Health	
Continuing/New TEACH Scholarships	early childhood workforce	Supports to home, center, and preschool providers as they complete formal education.	IAEYC	Statewide
Family Development Specialist Scholarships	home visitors	family support service providers to become certified as a FS Specialist; offered through either U of I or ISU	Dept. of Human Rights	Statewide

Community Empowerment Professional Development Funding

Proposal Title	Target Audience	Summary	Contractor	Plan for State Outreach
Maternal Depression Train the Trainer	Early Care, Health, and Education	The Maternal Depression Screening Train the Trainer Workshop series is an opportunity for program staff to develop skills to address the maternal mental health needs of families in their communities. The Train the Trainer is designed to provide trainers with background information about Maternal Depression and its effects, enable trainers to utilize the maternal depression screening tool, assist trainers to develop a community-based screening protocol, and provide mentoring and support for integration of the screening tool into programs and organizations.	University of Iowa; Dept. of Psychology	reaching out across state
Healthy Mental Development	Primary health care providers and mental health service providers	Provide guidance/education for developmental surveillance, screening and diagnosis	University of Iowa; Center for Disabilities and Development	Statewide
Early ACCESS Health component	service coordinators	The Early ACCESS health training will provide statewide training sessions for Service Coordinators on specific health related topics. Training will improve the referral to appropriate medical or health related early intervention services and increase collaboration between multiple programs. A segment of training will instruct interagency service coordinators to administer a standardized evaluation tool.	Dept. of Public Health	AEA Regions
Environmental Rating Scale: Next Step/TA	child care practitioners	consultation and technical assistance for practioners moving forward in the environment rating scales	Iowa State University	
Positive Behavior Support Education	early education and care providers	To provide training and support (e.g., consultation, technical assistance, materials) designed to assist in implementation of program-wide positive behavior supports to enhance children's social-emotional well-being and prevent challenging behaviors.	Iowa State University	
FDCRS Transition	ISU - inter-rater reliable reviewers	assist with transition to new ERS tool for home providers; training in NC for the two key persons	Iowa State University	
System Building	Systemic activities to support the prof. dev. of the early care, health and education field	Create, implement, and promote a blueprint for a sustainable professional development system geared specifically to the needs of Iowa's early care, health, and education system.	Dept. of Education	



Professional Development

ISSUE BRIEF 1

This issue brief is the first in a series developed by the Early Childhood Iowa Professional Development Component Group. This issue brief is intended to help inform policy makers about the importance of a system of professional development to support early care, health, and education providers.

What is a Professional Development System for Early Childhood?

Professional development consists of the formal education and training for early childhood professionals that supports and empowers them to improve the quality of care and early education provided to young children. Professional development is important for licensed teachers who have formal college education to continue to enhance skills that support school readiness. It is also important for professionals who meet Iowa Professional Licensing Standards in order for them to provide quality care that will assist children in achieving good outcomes. Research defines effective professional development as professional development that is outcome-based, provided by an approved trainer with ongoing technical assistance. The skills the early childhood professional is expected to master are practiced in both the training session and in the work setting. Providing outcome-based training assists professionals in meeting quality program standards and will assist in providing activities that help children achieve the Iowa Early Learning Standards.

An effective professional development system crosses many sectors in an effort to reach a variety of early care, health, and education professionals. In addition, an effective system addresses the elements of leadership, regulation and standards, education, articulation, training, compensation, and evaluation by its delineation of results and performance measures. A system implies coordination and articulation among and between agencies.

Why is it Important to have a Professional Development System?

The best way to improve quality in early care and education is through enhancing professional development. Research indicates children who participate in high quality early learning programs demonstrate greater school readiness and success through second grade than children who had been in low quality care, even after controlling for family differences (*The Cost, Quality and Outcomes Study*, 1999, National Center on Early Development and Learning).

A professional development system will assist Iowa in achieving results by:

- Supporting and empowering individuals to improve and sustain the quality of early care, health, and education in Iowa
- Identifying and documenting professional competencies of individuals
- Assuring that quality training is disseminated by approved trainers across the state
- Improving career mobility by increasing opportunities to link training education for advanced degrees
- Supporting individuals in receiving compensation that is commensurate with qualifications and responsibilities

Component Group Representatives:

- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Child Care Center Providers
- Community Colleges
- Universities
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Iowa
- Community Empowerment
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Education
- Early ACCESS
- ISU Extension
- Iowa State University
- Private providers
- Iowa Head Start Association
- Area Education Agencies
- Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
- Child Care Home Providers

In order to achieve these results several components of the systems are necessary. Some of these components currently exist in Iowa. Some components exist only within some agencies or locales, while others are statewide. These components include funding, core knowledge, credentials and qualifications, quality assurances, and access and outreach. Iowa currently has a core body of knowledge as well as Early Learning Standards. Expectations for credentials and qualifications and quality assurances exist within some agencies or professions but are not shared statewide. These expectations create the foundation for an effective system of professional development but have not yet illuminated pathways, highlighted partners, or clearly defined mechanisms for delivery.

What Activities are Currently Funded?

In SFY 07 legislators allocated \$2.2 million dollars to the Iowa Community Empowerment Office. The office worked collaboratively with the ECI Professional Development Component Group to fund several outcome-based professional development activities that support a system. Activities include:

- Expand T.E.A.C.H. Iowa to support additional professionals achieving a degree in early childhood education
- Expand Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standard facilitators that support outcome-based training for early childhood centers
- Support new staff orientation for child care center staff
- Expand Every Child Reads
- Support oral health training for physicians
- Expand Early ACCESS service coordinator training for providers of services birth to three
- Provide scholarships for expanded Family Development Specialist Training
- Support early childhood centers in achieving the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation
- Support technical assistance to providers participating in the Environmental Rating Scales Training
- Support train the trainer workshops for early care, health, and education providers regarding maternal depression screening
- Support training on positive behavior supports for young children for child care center staff
- Support professional development system building

Professional Development System Building Activities - What do we Recommend?

- Continue to assess progress in the areas of leadership, regulation and standards, education, articulation, training, compensation, and evaluation
- Design a coordinating structure that will assist the state in integrating and linking current professional development initiatives
- Legislate licensing of all child care programs
- Support child care program participation in the Quality Rating System (QRS)
- Increase minimum qualifications for practitioners
- Legislate articulation between publicly funded community colleges and universities
- Provide training and technical assistance to strengthen training evaluation
- Commission a new work force study
- Support T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Iowa for all interested early childhood providers statewide
- Implement W.A.G.E.S